

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 A 1. (currently amended): A partition for a column having  
2 means for separation of substance or for a chemical reaction  
3 reactions, comprising at least two mutually parallel wall elements  
4 disposed substantially contiguously with one above another or one  
5 alongside another, and a plug or clamp connector along an edge of  
6 one of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall  
7 element enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in  
8 planes thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite  
9 sides of said column.

1 2. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2 said connector is provided adjustably on at least one side of said  
3 one of said wall elements.

1 3. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1  
2 wherein said connector includes a strip parallel to said edge of  
3 said one of said elements and affixed to a face thereof to form  
4 along said edge of said one of said wall elements, a said slot  
5 receiving said edge of the other wall element.

1 4. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1  
2 wherein said connector includes a pair of strips affixed to oppo-  
3 site faces of said one of said wall elements and projecting beyond

4        said edge of said one of said wall elements to form a said slot  
5        receiving the other wall element and overlapping opposite faces  
6        thereof at said edge of said other wall element.

1                5. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1  
2        wherein said connector includes a first strip mounted on said one  
3        of said wall elements parallel to said edge of said one of said  
4        wall elements and a spacer between said strip and a face of said  
5        one of said wall elements whereby said strip defines with said one  
6        of said wall elements along the edge of said one of said wall  
7        elements a said slot receiving said edge of said other wall ele-  
8        ment, said strip overlapping said other of said wall elements.

1                6. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim 1  
2        wherein said connector includes a step formed in said edge of said  
3        one of said wall elements in which said edge of said other wall  
4        element is received, and a strip juxtaposed with said other wall  
5        element, secured to said one of said wall elements and defining a  
6        said slot with said step in which said edge of said other wall  
7        elements is received.

1                7. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim  
2        1, further comprising a strip of stepped cross section secured to  
3        said one of said wall elements and forming said connector, said  
4        strip defining a said slot receiving said edge of said other wall  
5        element.

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1               8. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2        said wall elements are coplanar with one another.

1               9. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2        said connector includes at least one strip connected by welds to  
3        said one of said wall elements along said edge of said one of said  
4        wall elements.

1               10. (original): The partition defined in claim 9 wherein  
2        said welds are spot welds.

1               11. (original): The partition defined in claim 9 wherein  
2        said welds are roller-generated point weld connections.

1               12. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2        said connector includes at least one strip fastened along said edge  
3        of said one of said wall elements and secured thereto by threaded  
4        bolt connections.

1               13. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2        said connector includes at least one strip composed of metal or  
3        plastic.

1                   14. (currently amended): The partition defined in claim  
2                   1, further comprising sealing elements along at least one edge of  
3                   the partition ~~adapted to contact~~ contacting a wall of said column.

1                   15. (original): The partition defined in claim 14  
2                   wherein said sealing elements are composed of thin slitted sheet  
3                   metal or a metal fabric.

1                   16. (original): The partition defined in claim 14  
2                   wherein said sealing elements are resilient sealing lips.

1                   17. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2                   lateral faces of said wall elements are rectangular or triangular.

1                   18. (original): The partition defined in claim 1 wherein  
2                   said connector includes at least one strip overlapping said other  
3                   all element and affixed to said one of said wall elements and  
4                   forming a sealing connection between said wall elements at said  
5                   edges thereof.

1                   19. (currently amended): A column provided with means  
2                   for the separation of components of a flowable mixture or for  
3                   effecting a chemical reaction, comprising:

4                   an upright column housing formed internally with at least  
5                   one vertical partition separating an inlet side of an interior of  
6                   said column from an outlet side thereof,

7                   at least one fitting for introducing a mixture of flow-  
8                   able compounds into said inlet said side,

9                   at least one lateral fitting for discharging a flowable  
10                  substance from said outlet side, said partition comprising at least  
11                  two mutually-parallel wall elements disposed substantially contigu-  
12                  ously with one above another or alongside one another, and

13                  a plug or clamp connector forming a slot along an edge of  
14                  one of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall  
15                  element enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in  
16                  planes thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite  
17                  sides of said column.

1                   20. (original): The column defined in claim 19 wherein  
2                   said wall elements are coplanar with one another.